

DOE Weekly Field Memo – December 16, 2009

From the Department of Education:

- REQUIRED: Educator Census Data Collection
- Transformation Policy Commission Report Presented to the State Board
- High School Completion Program Legislative Changes

From the Department of Health:

- Free Radon Testing For School Buildings
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REQUIRED: Educator Census Data Collection

Audience: Principals and Superintendents

The 2009-2010 Educator Census application is scheduled to be mailed to the supervisory unions and regional technical center directors on January 15, 2010. The due date for this collection is March 1, 2010. View notification at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_IT/data_collection.html#educator. Contact: Help Desk at (802) 828-3777. Questions about the data reporting can be directed to Lucinda Morabito at (802) 828-1455 or licinda.morabito@state.vt.us.

Transformation Policy Commission Report Presented to the State Board

Audience: All

On Tuesday, December 15, the State Board of Education heard a presentation from the Transformation Policy Commission, charged in early 2009 with proposing key policy actions that could support transformation. The report is entitled *Opportunity to Learn*, as it focuses on how every student can attain 21st century skills when provided with focuses and personalized opportunities for learning. View the report at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/transformation.html#commission_report. Contact: Carol King at (802) 828-5101 or carol.c.king@state.vt.us

High School Completion Program Legislative Changes

Audience: Superintendents, Principals

The High School Completion Program, established by Act 176, is now able to serve students still enrolled in high school. Administrators may have experience working through this program with un-enrolled students. There are some differences regarding reimbursement for services and the school's responsibilities in the context of enrollment status and attendance. This option makes available a valuable, flexible pathway to graduation for those students who are deemed eligible and would be an appropriate fit. More specific information regarding students receiving special education services will be available soon. View additional information at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_hsi/high_school_completion.html. Contact: For questions about high school enrollment and attendance issues, contact Glenn Bouchard at (802) 828-1262 or glenn.bouchard@state.vt.us. For questions about the interaction between this program and special education services, contact John Spinney at (802) 828-5127 or john.spinney@state.vt.us. For general questions about the High School Completion Program, contact Tom Alderman at (802) 828-3134 or tom.alderman@state.vt.us).

From the Department of Health:

Free Radon Testing For School Buildings

Audience: Principals, School Nurses, and School Board Chairs

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. You cannot see, smell or taste radon. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Testing is the only way to know if radon is a problem in your school. As real as the threat of radon is, the good news is that if radon is detected at levels that exceed 4.0pCi/L, the problem can be solved. The Health Department is currently soliciting schools that would like to take part in testing for radon this winter. Step 1: Contact the Radon Program at the Health Department to secure a date for short term testing. Step 2: Follow up testing: If radon levels exceed the EPA recommended action level of 4.0 pCi/L, follow up testing should immediately take place in those areas. Step 3: Take action to reduce levels if the follow up tests is 4.0 pCi/L. Availability is based on first come, first served. Contact: Amanda LaScala, (802) 865-7762 or alascal@vdh.state.vt.us

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.